

Message Text

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15

ACTION NEA-12

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R 141030Z DEC 73

FM USINT CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4701

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USUN NEW YORK 2338

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 4005

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG US OVIP

SUBJ: PRESS COVERAGE OF SECRETARY'S VISIT TO CAIRO

1. DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PRESS COVERAGE OF SECRETARY KISSINGER'S NOVEMBER VISIT AND PRESENT ONE IS A STUDY IN COUNTERPOINT. IN NOVEMBER, PRESS CARRIED AS MAJOR STORIES ARRIVAL OF SECRETARY, GETTING BY FAHMY AND MEETING WITH SADAT, AND REFLECTED GENERAL FEELING OF OPTIMISM THAT SECRETARY'S ARRIVAL MEANT IMMINENT AND CONCRETE PROGRESS POLITICALLY AND ON THE GROUND.

2. TODAY, DECEMBER 14, PICTURE IS OF CONSIDERABLE CAUTION WITH OVERTONES OF DETERMINATION THAT, IF NECESSARY, GOALS OF STRUGGLE MIGHT BE ATTAINED BY WARFARE. COVERAGE OF SECRETARY'S VISIT IS CENTER-PAGED IN AHRAH, BUT IS NOT MAIN STORY. AHRAH'S ARTICLE NOTES SECRETARY'S ARRIVAL AND MEETING WITH SADAT UNTIL MIDNIGHT, DECEMBER13, AND GIVES SPECIAL ATTENTION TO SECRETARY'S ARRIVAL STATEMENT
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THAT HE HAD RETURNED TO RESUME DISCUSSIONS FOR THE SAKE OF

ESTABLISHING A JUST AND LASTING PEACE TO THE MIDDLE EAST
ACCORDING TO SC RES. 242. AKHBAR AND GUMHURIYYA ALSO GIVE
SECOND SPACE TO STORY OF SECRETARY'S VISIT. TWO EDITORIALS
DEAL WITH SUBJECT OF ROLE SECRETARY CAN PLAY IN ACHIEVING
PEACE AND JUSTICE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. ONE CALLS FOR CESSATION
OF US MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO ISRAEL WHICH "HAS ENCOURAGED
ISRAEL TO EXPLODE ALL PEACE INITIATIVES;" THE OTHER IS
ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY BY THE WRITER AND WARNS AGAINST
ANY PROCRASTINATION IN ACHIEVING SETTLEMENT, SINCE THIS WOULD
ONLY INCREASE HATE AND DANGER AGAINST ISRAEL AND US AND
STRENGTHEN DETERMINATION OF ARABS.

3. PRESS' MAJOR STORY, CLAIM(WITH PHOTOS) THAT EGYPTIAN
AIR DEFENSE HAS SHOT DOWN ISRAELI "SPY PLANE," SETS TONE
OF PRESS. THIS IS GIVEN MAJOR PLAY, AND PRESS PARALLELS
IT WITH REPORTS FROM ISRAEL ABOUT NEW EGYPTIAN TROOP
MOVEMENTS AND WARNING BY MRS. MEIR THAT WAR MIGHT BREAK
OUT DURING GENEVA CONFERENCE. ACCOMPANYING STORY IN
ALL PAPERS IS REPORT OF PROTEST GIVEN DECEMBER 13 TO
AMBASSADOR EILTS BY FOREIGN MINISTER FAHMY REGARDING OVERFLIGHT
OF EGYPT BY US RECONNAISSANCE AIRCRAFT DECEMBER 10; THIS,
SAY REPORTS, IS SIXTH SUCH OCCURENCE.

4. COMMENT: TONE OF REPORTING OF SECRETARY'S VISIT IS
RESERVED, AND ITS PLACEMENT IN SECONDARY POSITION APPEARS
TO BE ORCHESTRATED EFFORT TO MINIMIZE SENSE OF OPTIMISM
THAT VISIT MIGHT CREATE. AT SAME TIME, PRESS COVERAGE VISIBLY
SUGGEST THAT SADAT AND EGYPT WILL NOT UNREASONABLY KNUCKLE
UNDER TO US BLANDISHMENTS AND PRESSURE.
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